Since the donations are small and scattered, there is no centralised compilation system for the various donations made by different banks.

Excise outstanding against HINDALCO

2714. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that huge excise duty is outstanding against HINDALCO;

(b) what is the total amount outstanding and since when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Company has failed to clear the outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, what steps Government pro-pose to take to realise the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Excise duty amounting to Rs. 17. 72 lakhs is reported to be pending against M/s. HINDALCO for over 4 years.

(c) and (d) The Company has not yet cleared these dues in view of a stay granted by Collector (Appeals) before whom the case is pending. Collector (Appeals) has been advised to expedite his decision in this case.

Action taken against Shri Rajindra Sethia for cheating banks

2715. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature of action taken by Government of India in regard to the recovery of money from Shri Rajindra Sethia, who has cheated Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India and ' Union Barik'of India, London Branches to the tune of Rs. 250 crorer,

(b) whether action against the officers of banks has also been initiated; and

(c) if so what are the details of the action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India and Union ' Bank of India have filed claims with the ; official liquidator for M/s Esal (Commodities) Ltd. They have also lodged their claims with the Central Bank of Nigeria in respect of those bills pertaining to Nigeria. | The Banks have also made some recoveries by sale of securities such as landed properties, shares etc. As a result of these steps, three banks have so far recovered Rs. 91 crores approximately.

(b) and (c) Union Bank of India has dismissed two of its officers connected with the transactions whilst Punjab National Bank has terminated the services of one officer and censured two others. Charge-sheets have been served on two other officers. Central Bank of India has suspended one of its officers and withheld the terminal benefits of another officer pending disposal of criminal and civil action filed against them by the Bank.

Grant of loans for industrial and business purposes

2716. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of loans granted to the industrial and business purposes is very defective and the payments are released by the banks without verification;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the rules in regard to' the advance of loans; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it is not correct to state that the present system of loans granted for industrial and business purposes is very defective or that payments are released by banks without veri-fication. By and large all banks have well defined systems and and procedures ofr grant of advances for various purposes and defects noticed could be attributed mainly to failure to comply with prescribed procedures in individual cases. Further, in many cases actual performance of borrowers falls short of projections made

at the time of assessment of proposals due to factors beyond the control of banks. ', Due verification is also made by banks before disbursements are actually made.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Urban Cooperative Bank at Sopore and Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir

2717. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Urban Cooperative Bank at Sopore and Anantnag in the Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) if so. what steps have been taken to ■ give them licence for opening the Banks ?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (R B I) have reported that proposals for organisation of *A* new Urban Cooperative Bank each at Sopore and Anantnag in Jammu *&* Kashmir State were received by them from the State Government and they arc being looked into by. RBI.

Criticism of wage structure for journalists and non-journalists

2718. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pieased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Union of Journalist has recently criticized the present wage structure for | journalists and non-journalists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The National Union of j Journalists (India) criticized the recommendations of the Wage Boards on interim j relief for journalists and non-journalist employees of newspapers, and had de- j manded upward revision of the interim rates of wages.

(b) The Government has since revised the interim rates of wages from 7. 5 per,

3—816RSS/86

cent recommended by the Wage Boards to 15 per cent of basic wages.

Working of Nabard

2719. SHRI MUKHTIAR SlNGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

I a) whether it is a fact that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have failed in its objective pertaining to agricultural and rural development;

(b) whether it is a fact that instead of making available loans at reduced rates of interest the profits of NABARD have considerably increased during the last three years;

(c) if so. what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to make NABARD achieve its goal of agricultural development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to '(d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been set *up* for providing credit for the promotion of agriculture, small scale, cottage and village industries, handicrafts and other allied rural economic activities in an integrated manner with pointed focus and forceful direction. Since the establishment of NABARD there has been no increase in the rates of interest charged by NABARD from the constituent bankers even though the cost o[c] funds for NABARD has increased. The amount of refinance provided by NABARD for schematic lending increased from Rs. 703 crores in 19x2-83 to Rs. 1192 crores (pro visional) in 1985-86 registering a growth of about 70%. The profits earned by NABARD during the 3 years since inception are indicated below:

1982. 83: Rs. 93. 89 crores «

1983-84: Rs. 143. 30 crores

1984-85: Rs. 184. 83 crores.

The profits earned by NABARD are ploughed into the various funds maintained under the provisions of the NABARD Act, 1981 with a view to augment the resources of NABARD. The activities of NAB\RD are periodically reviewed by a Board of